

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

The specification has been amended to reference the patented status of the applicants' parent application Serial no. 09/605,718. In this regard, the Examiner seems to have overlooked the applicant's earlier amendment of February 19, 2002 wherein the specification was amended to make reference to the parent case. See page 2, Item 5 of the applicant's original filing papers. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is requested.

The Examiner is also requested to reconsider the Section 112, 2nd ¶ rejection of claims 2 and 3. These claims were canceled with the applicant's preliminary amendment. See again page 2, Item 2 of the original filing papers. Accordingly, withdrawal of the Section 112 rejection is requested. A copy of page 2 of the applicant's original filing papers is attached for the Examiner's possible ease of reference.

The Examiner is also requested to reconsider the double-patenting rejection based on claim 3 of the applicant's parent patent (U.S. 6,391,078) considered with U.S. 4,297,810 (Hansford) or U.S. 5,917,112 (Van Stephoudt). While it is thought that the rejection is not warranted, a terminal disclaimer with respect to the commonly owned U.S. 6,391,078 is being filed herewith. This should, in any case, obviate the Examiner's rejection.

The application is thought to be in condition for allowance and such action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

By 

Paul N. Kokulis
Reg. No. 16773

Date: March 18, 2004

Customer No. 09629

1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
Phone: (202) 739-3000
Facsimile: (202) 739-3001
Direct: (202) 739-5455